(c) The total 9th Plan (1997-98 — 2001-2002) outley earmarked for the Growth Centre Scheme is Rs. 307 crores.

Sick Industrial units in Maharashtra

333. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large, medium and small industrial units in Maharashtra which was sick on 31.1.2000, alongwith their number in each category;

(b) the amount already spent on sick industrial units in each category; and

(c) the steps being taken to make such units profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report, as at the end of March, 1999, the position of industry sickness in the State of Maharashtra and outstanding bank credit is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Category	No. of Units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI-sick	13373	510.39
2. Non-SSI sick/Weak	495	2635.79
TOTAL:	13868	3146.18

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

Export of Chilly from Andhra Pradesh

334. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spices Board has not given adequate attention to the chilly exprots from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Spices Board is concerned only with cardamon and other such spices;

(c) whether there is a need to have a separate authority for agro-spices like chillies, turmeric and tamarind;

(d) whether it is also a fact that turmeric, chillies and tamarind have good export potential; and

(e) what step are proposed to enhance such exports from Andhra Pradesh in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The mandate of the Spices Board is for Export Development of 52 Spices including Cardamom given in the Schedule of the Spices Board Act and Production development of Cardamom. The responsibility of the pre-harvest development of Spices other than Cardamom does not fall under purview of the Spices Board.

(c) A separate authority for agro spices likes chillies, turmeric and tamarind is not needed as production aspect of these spices is handled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and State Agriculture/Horticulture Departments and export development by the Spices Board. Constitution of a separate authority would only result in duplication of activities and avoidable expenditure.

(d) Yes, Sir. Turmeric, Chillies and Tamarind have good export potential. The item-wise export of these commodities during the last three years are given below:

(Qty. in tonnes: Value in Rs. lakhs)

Item	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Turmeric	23019	5844.61	28875	8306.50	36522	12454.97
Chilli	50051	20145.16	51799	15890.02	61253	216661.11
Tamarind	11472	1774.23	7008	1485.96	10542	2395.86

Source: Spices Board

(e) Spices Board is presently operating following programmes/Schemes to enhance export of chillies, tamarind and turmeric from Andhra Pradesh.

(I) Quality Improvement

(i) Supply of polythene sheets for drying chillies and turmeric under hygienic condition and to avoid incidence of aflatoxin.

(ii) Assist the growers in the construction of concrete/ cemented frying yards in the farmers' field.

(iii) Educate the growers on cultivation, pre and post harvest handling in selected chilli growing villages, for eliminating pesticide residues in the final product.

(iv) Training on quality improvement of chilli and turmeric (growers, officers of the State Agriculture/Horticulture Departments, traders and NGOs).

(II) Special programmes for promoting export of chilli in Guntur and Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh

(i) Popularising integrated pest management practices.

(ii) Renovating godown number two of Agriculture Market Committee at Guntur and construction of a drying yard near to the godown for drying and storing export quality chillies.

(iii) Strengthening the central Agmark lab in Guntur by providing equipments i.e. high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) and gas chromatograph (GC) to analyse pesticide residue and imparting training to the chemists attached to the lab at Guntur.

(iv) Implementing two farmer field school (FFS) for educating the growers on integrated pest management in chillies through the NGOs identified under UNDP.

(III) Spices Board has opened a Regional Office at Hyderabad and a Zonal Office at Guntur for implementing and monitoring the activities of the Board.

The continuation of above programmes is proposed by the Spices Board along with the market development oriented programmes during the next two years subject to the specific requirement/demands by exporters of spices.

Money generated through disinvestment in PSUs

335. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money generated through disinvestment from the Public Sector Undertakings, so far;